

# COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.

*"Enlightened minds and virtuous manners lead to the gate of glory."*

VOL. I. NEW RICHMOND, AUGUST 13, 1824. NO. 8.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY A. C., J. & W. HERRON, AT \$1 50  
CTS. PER ANNUM, PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

lence and fraud still pursue them into new regions with the avidity of a victorious army for the spoils of the vanquished, but act like the generous victor, we give no quarter to a fallen enemy or submissive friend—humiliation precedes annihilation, and destruction follows defeat.

It must be a subject of lamentation to the philanthropist that over the whole extent of territory comprehended within the limits of the United States, or at least within many hundred miles along the sea board, an Indian can scarcely be found. He is a novelty. If accident or inclination has thrown one of those unhappy beings among us, we gaze at him with wonder and astonishment; we contemplate him as we do the approach of a comet, which we may or may not see again, and is curious because it is seldom seen.

The numerous nations of Indians who formerly inhabited the forests of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and the states of New England, have become totally extinct, have assimilated to the remains of other nations, or are wandering a mere relic of a nation discomfited, homeless and heart broken, without the formalities of a people or a system of government. Many of their names have been entirely lost, or can only be learned from history; their destiny seems to be followed up by a fate as certain as it is cruel and lamentable; and, like the chosen people to which I have often compared

them, the powerful arm of the Almighty alone can save them from total annihilation.

If there is a time when nations shall be judged as well as individuals, the God of the red man and white man will recompense the untutored and injured children of the forest.

The celebrated speech of the Oneida chief Skenandoh, who was blind with age, being above one hundred years old, when he delivered it, has caused many a tear, and is filled with true pathos.

"My warriors and children hear! It is cruel; it is very cruel! A heavy burden lays on my heart; it is very sick. This is a dark day. The clouds are black and heavy over the Oneida nation; and a strange arm is heavy upon us and our hearts groan under it. Our fires are put out, and our beds are removed from under us. The graves of our fathers are destroyed, and their children are driven away. The Almighty is angry with us, for we have been very wicked; therefore his arm does not keep us. Where are the Chiefs of the Rising Sun? There no Indians sleeps but those that sleep in their graves! My house will be like theirs; soon will a white chief here kindle his fire. Your Skenandoh will soon be no more and his village no more a village of Indians.

"The news that came last night by our man from Albany made this a sick day in Oneida. All



our children's hearts are sick, and our eyes rain like the black cloud that roars on the tops of the trees of the wilderness. Long did the strong voice of Skenandoh cry, children take care; be wise; be straight. His feet were then like the deer's and his arms like the bear's—he can now only mourn out a few words and then be silent; and his voice will no more be heard in Oneida. But certainly he will be long in the minds of his children—in white men's Skenandoh's has gone far, and will not die. He has spoke many words to make his children straight. Long has he said drink no strong water; for it makes you mice for white men, who are cats. Many a meal have they eaten of you. Their lips are sweet, but their hearts are wicked. Yet there are good whites and good Indians. I love all good men, and Jesus, whom I love, sees all. His great day is coming, he will make straight; he will say to cheating whites and drinking Indians, begone ye, go, go, certainly my children, he will drive them away. In that day will I rejoice. But oh! great sorrow is in my heart that many of my children mourn. The great Jesus has looked on all the whites, the whites were cheating us; and it will remain in his mind, he will make all straight again. Long have I believed his good words & as long as I live I will pray to him. He is my good saviour my blind eyes he will open, I shall see him. His way is a good way.

"Hearken my children! when the news sounds in the council house, towards the setting sun, and they cry make bows and arrows, sharpen the tomahawk, put the chain of friendship with the whites into the ground, - warrior, kill!

kill! The great chief at the setting sun, wont kill any of the six nations that go into his land because they have a chain of friendship with the whites, and he says, the whites have sold them our land. We have not sold it, we have been CHEATED; and my messenger shall speak true words in the great council house toward the setting sun, and say, yet bury the tomahawk; Oneidas must be children of peace.

"Children! some have said your chiefs signed papers to white men and sold our fires. Your chiefs signed no papers; sooner would they let the tomahawk lay them low. We know one of our men was hired by white men to tell our men this, and will now tell you so himself. Papers are wicked things; take care; sign none of them but such as our minister reads to us. He is straight. You now see his tears running like ours.

"Father, you are our minister, dry up your tears. We know if your arm could, it would help us. We know wicked men speak ill of you for our sakes. You suffer with us. Children, our two messengers will run and carry our sorrows to the great council fire towards the setting sun. Run, my children, and tell our words. —Give health to all the chiefs assembled round the council fire. And may Jesus the great Saviour bring you back safe."

This speech is not only pathetic but also true. I could never read it without being affected. Well might Skenandoh exclaim, where are the chiefs of the rising sun! The answer is, as given in the speech; "white chiefs now kindle their ancient fires."

The God of nature has stamped the seal of mutability upon nations



as well as individuals. A powerful nation may originate in one century and become extinct in another.—What emotions do not arise in contemplating the past, present, and future state of the Indians.

—o—

*A tribe of American natives of superior improvements.*

The Franklin (Missouri) Intelligencer gives the following account.

**B**ETWEEN the Spanish settlements of New Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, reside a nation of Indians, called Nabijos, whose ingenuity and improvements reflect honour on the uncivilized state. Their skill in manufacturing, and their excellence in some of the useful and ornamental arts, show a decided superiority of genius over all the other tribes of the western continent; even over those whose contiguity to civilization has afforded them the benefit of its institution. Their power and bravery are proverbial among the Spaniards, who have experienced more molestation and injury from them, than from all other Indians in their vicinity. They once sent to Santa Fe a large quantity of silver in bullion to be moulded into dollars, which the Spaniards perfidiously converted to their own use. The Spaniards also prohibited the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco among them, with a view to necessitate them to purchase their own, for which they demand an extravagant price. These, together with other causes of dissatisfaction, have, for many years, occasioned mutual hostilities, in which they usually triumphed over the pusillanimity of the Spaniards, and made a large proportion of their sheep and mules the

spoils of war. A young gentleman, now in this town, during the last summer accompanied a strong military expedition against them, which defeated them, and obliged them to sue for peace. They killed a chief who wore shoes, fine woollen stockings, small clothes, connected at the sides by silver buttons instead of a seam; a hunting shirt; and a scarlet cloth cap, the folds of which were also secured by silver buttons. These people do not adopt the usual Indian manner of living in villages, but are a nation of comfortable and independent farmers. Their houses are built of stone: some one, and others two stories high. They have fine flocks of sheep, abundance of mules, and herds of cattle of a superior kind. They cultivate corn, tobacco, and cotton; the cotton they manufacture into cloth. They have gardens, in which they raise several kinds of esculent vegetables; and have peach orchards, the fruit of which resembles our apricots. Several articles of their woollen manufacture equal the quality of ours.—We have seen a coverlet made by them, the texture of which was excellent, the figures ingenious, and the colours permanent and brilliant. Our townsman, Mr. H., has taken it to Philadelphia for the purpose of sending it to a friend in Europe.—The Spaniards imitate the manufacture of this article, but their imitations are far inferior to the original. They make baskets and small dishes of osiers, so compactly worked as to hold water without the least leakage. The twigs before being wrought are variously and so skillfully put together that the finished vessel presents different figures. Their bridles are made of tanned leather



er and often embellished with silver ornaments. They dress almost wholly in their own fabrics. The men dress in small clothes, sometimes of deer skins, tanned and handsomely coloured. The women wear a loose black robe, ornamented round the bottom with a red border, which is sometimes figured; and when not engaged, they use a large shawl of the same colour and material.

This remote and secluded tribe may have brought down their knowledge of some degree of civilization from the time of their first emigration into this continent, and perhaps from the days of Israel. Some of the original tribes of this continent, it appears from various tokens of a degree of civilization discovered in the west, did retain for a time some knowledge of the civil arts. They became extinct probably by the savage barbarity of their brethren, who had fallen into the hunting and savage life. The above tribe, it would seem, escaped that destruction.

—o—o—

Antiquities of the People who formerly inhabited the Western Parts of the United States.

**I**T is time to consider the third and last, and most highly interesting class of Antiquities, which comprehends those belonging to that people who erected our ancient forts and tumuli; those military works, whose wall, and ditches cost so much labour in their structure, those numerous and sometimes lofty mounds, which owe their origin to a people far more civilized than our Indians, but far less so than Europeans. These works are interesting, on many accounts, to the

Antiquarian, the Philosopher, and the Divine, especially when we consider the immense extent of country which they cover; the great labour which they cost their authors; the acquaintance with the useful arts, which that people had, when compared with our present race of Indians; the grandeur of many of the works themselves; the total absence of all historical records, or even traditional accounts respecting them; the great interest which the learned have taken in them; the contradictory and erroneous accounts which have generally been given to them; to which we may add, the destruction of them which is going on in almost every place where they are found in this whole country, have jointly contributed to induce me to bestow no inconsiderable share of attention to this class of Antiquities. They were once forts, cmenteries, temples, altars, camps, towns, villages, race grounds, and other places of amusement, habitations of chieftains, videttes, watch towers, monuments, &c. These ancient works, especially the mounds, both of earth and stone, are found in every quarter of the habitable globe.

—o—o—

In what Parts of the World ancient works of this kind are found.

**T**HESE ancient works, so much talked about, and so little understood, are spread over an immense extent of country, in Europe and the northern parts of Asia. They may be traced from Wales to Scotland on the island of Britain;—they are found in Ireland, in Normandy, in France, in Sweden, and quite a-



cross the Russian empire, to our continent. In Africa we see pyramids, which derive their origin from the same source. In Judea, and throughout all Palestine, works similar to ours exist. In Tartary they abound in all the steppes. I know not whether Lewis and Clarke saw any of these works on Columbia river; but they did not traverse that country by land, and had of course but little opportunity to discover them, if there. But on this side of the Rocky Mountains they did see them frequently; and I have little doubt of their existing all the way, from the spot where, we are informed, the ark of Noah rested, to our northwestern lakes, down them and their outlets, as far as the Black River country, on the southern shore of lake Ontario in New York.

On the south side of Ontario, one not far from Black River, is the farthest in a northeastern direction on this continent. One on the Chenango river, at Oxford, is the farthest south. on the eastern side of the Aleghanies. These works are small, very ancient, and appear to mark the utmost extent of the settlement of the people who erected them in that direction. Coming from Asia, finding our great lakes, and following them down thus far, Were they driven back by the ancestors of our Indians? and, Were the small forts above alluded to, built in order to protect them from the Aborigines who had before that time settled along the Atlantic coast? In travelling towards lake Erie, in a western direction from the works above mentioned, a few small works are occasionally found, especially in Genesee county; but they are few and small, until we arrive

at the mouth of Cataragus creek in the state of New York, where Governor Clinton, in his "Memoir, &c." says a line of forts commences, extending south upwards of fifty miles, and not more than four or five miles, apart. There is said to be another line of them parallel to these, which generally contain a few acres of ground only, whose walls are only a few feet in height. For an able account of the Antiquities in the western parts of New York, we must again refer to Governor Clinton's Memoir, not wishing to repeat what he has so well said.

If the works alluded to, are real forts, they must have been built by a people few in number, and quite rude in the arts of life. Travelling towards the southwest, these works are frequently seen, but like those already mentioned, they are comparatively small, until we arrive on the Licking near Newark, where are some of the most extensive and intricate, as well as interesting, of any in this state, perhaps in the world. Leaving these, still proceeding in a southwestern direction, we find some very extensive ones at Circleville. At Chillicothe there were some, but the destroying hand of man has despoiled them of their contents, and entirely removed them. On Paint Creek are some, far exceeding all others in some respects, where probably was once an ancient city of great extent. At the mouth of the Scioto, are some very extensive ones, as well as at the mouth of the Muskingum. In fine, these works are thickly scattered over the vast plain from the southern shore of lake Erie, to the Mexican Gulf, increasing in number, size and grandeur as we proceed to,



wards the south. They may be traced around the Gulph, across the province of Texas into New-mexico, and all the way into South America. They abound most in the vicinity of good streams, and are never, or nearly found except in a fertile soil. They are not found in the prairies of Ohio, and rarely in the barrens, and there they are small, and situated on the edge of them, and on dry ground. From the Black River country in Newyork, to this state, I need say no more concerning them; but at Salem in Ashtabula county, there is one on a hill, which merits a few words though it is a small one compared with others farther south. The work at Salem, is on a large hill near Coneaught river, if my information be correct, and is about three miles from lake Erie. It is round, having two paralel circular walls, and a ditch between them. Through these walls, leading into the inclosure, are a gateway and a road, exactly like a modern turnpike, descending down the hill to the stream by such a gradual slope, that a team with a waggon might easily either ascend or descend it, and there is no other place by which these works could be approached, without considerable difficulty. Within the bounds of this ancient enclosure, the trees which grew there were such as denote the richest soil in this country, while those growing on the outside of these ruins, were such as denote the poorest.

On the suface of the earth, within this circular work, and immediately below it, pebbles rounded, and having their angles worn off in water, such as are now seen on the present shore of the lake, are found; but they are represen-

ted as bearing visible marks of having been burned in a fire. Bits of earthen ware, of a coarse kind, and of a rude structure, without any glazing, are found here on the surface, and a few inches below it. This ware is represented to me as having been manufactured of sand stone and clay. My informant says, within this work are sometimes found skeletons of a people of small stature, which, if true, sufficiently identifies it to have belonged to that race of men who erected our tumuli. The vegetable mould covering the surface within the works, is at least ten inches in depth. In these same works have been found articles, evidently belonging to the Indians, of their own manufacture, as well as others, which they had derived from their intercourse with Europeans and their descendants. I mention the fact here, thus particularly, in order to save the repetition of it in describing nearly every work of this kind, especially along the shore of lake Erie, and the banks of the larger rivers. This circumstance I wish the reader to keep in mind. Indian Antiquities are always either on, or a very small distance below the surface, unless buried in some grave; whilst articles, evidently belonging to that people who raised our mounds, are frequently found many feet below the surface, especially in river bottoms.

Still proceeding in a southwestern direction, there are, at different places, several small ancient works, scattered over the country, some in regular forms, and others appear to have been thrown up to suit the ground they are situated; but their walls are only a few feet in height, encompassing, generally, but a few



acres, with ditches of no great depth, evidently shewing the population to have been considerable.

I have been informed, that in the north part of Medina county, Ohio, there are some works near one of which, a piece of marble well polished, was lately found. It might have been a composition of clay and sulphat of lime or plaster of Paris, such as I have often seen in and about ancient works along the Ohio river. A common observer would mistake the one for the other, which I am disposed to believe was the case here.

—o—o—o—  
ANCIENT TUMULI.

**T**HERE is another species of ancient works in this country which deserves our notice. They are conical mounds, either of earth or stones, which were intended for many sacred and important purposes. In many parts of the world similar mounds were used as monuments, sepulchres, altars and temples.

The accounts of these works, found in the scriptures, show that their origin must be sought for among the Antideluvians. That they are very ancient, were used as places of sepulture, public resort and public worship, is proved by all the writers of ancient times, both sacred and profane. Homer frequently mentions them. He particularly describes the tumulus of Tytyus and the spot where it was. In memory of the illustrious dead, a sepulchral mound of earth was raised over their remains; which from that time forward became an altar, whereon to offer sacrifices, and around which, to exhibit games of athletick exercise. These of-

ferings and games were intended to propitiate their names, to honor and perpetuate their memories.

Prudentius, a Roman bard, has told us, that there were in ancient Rome just as many temples of gods as there were sepulchres of heroes implying that they were the same. Need I mention the tomb of Anchises, which Virgil has described, with the offerings there presented, and the games there exhibited? The sanctity of Acropolis where Cecrops was inhumed? The tomb of the father of Adonis, at Paphos, whereon a temple dedicated to Venus was erected? The grave of Cleomachus, whereon stood a temple dedicated to the worship of Apollo? Finally, I would ask the classical reader if the words translated TOMB and TEMPLE, are not used as synonymous, by the poets of Greece and Rome? Virgil, who wrote in the days of Augustus, speaks of these tumuli as being as ancient as they were sacred, even in his time. Who has forgotten those lines, the reading of which gave him so much pleasure in the days of his childhood?

—Tumulum antiquæ Cereris,  
sedamque sacratam, Venimus—  
Æn. lib. ii. v. 742.

In the first ages of the world, reason teaches us to believe, that the government of mankind was patriarchal; and the scriptures inform us that it was so. In infancy and childhood we naturally look up to our parents for support and education. The debt of gratitude increases until the beloved object of our filial affection is no more. Then all the endearments, of which we were the objects, through all our helpless years, posent themselves to our view, and we anxiously seek, **by**



some monument, to perpetuate the memory of those to whose kind care we are so greatly indebted. By what better means, could such an object be effected by a people unacquainted with the use of letters? What more lasting monument of filial respect could have been raised by a people thus situated? How simple, and yet how sublime? and calculated to endure while the world itself shall continue, unless destroyed by the sacriligious hand of man.

A conical tumulus was reared, games were instituted, and certain offerings presented on stated anniversaries. In later times, after warriors arose, and performed great and mighty deeds, the whole tribe or nation joined to raise on some high place, generally, lofty tumulus. At first, sacrifices might have been, and probably were, offered on these tumuli, to the true God, as the great author and giver of life; but in later times they forgot Him, and worshipped the manes of the heroes they had buried there.

The conical mounds in Ohio are either of stones or of earth. The former, in other countries and in former ages, were intended as monuments, for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of some important event; or as altars, whereon to offer sacrifices. The latter were used as cemeteries and as altars, whereon, in later times, temples were erected among the people of Greece and Rome. Their existence and uses may be learned, by consulting the ancient writers, both sacred and profane.

In the scriptures we are informed, that Jacob erected a pillar of stones in order to perpetuate the recollection of a remark-

able dream which he had, where he reposed, when journeying to visit Laban. A pile of stones was raised on the spot, where many years afterwards he parted with his brother Esau. This mound was to be a limit, which neither of them should in future pass without being considered as a trespasser on the other. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan, the priests raised a pile of stones, which were brought from the bed of that river. The reasons are assigned by the several historians which the reader can see at his leisure.

Gilgal was a heap of stones, where the Israelites encamped the first night after they crossed the Jordan. If the reader will consult a correct map of Palestine, he will see that Shiloh, Bethel, Jerusalem, &c. where the Jews assembled at various periods of their history, for public worship, were all of them situated upon high hills.

—o—o—

#### Description of the MOUNDS, or TUMULI, of EARTH.

**T**HEY are of various altitudes and dimensions, some being only four or five feet in height, and ten or twelve feet in diameter at their base, whilst others, as we travel to the south, rise to the height of eighty and ninety feet, and cover many acres of ground.

They are generally, where completed, in the form of a cone. Those in the north part of Ohio are inferior in size, and fewer in number, than those along the river. These mounds are believed to exist from the Rocky Mountains in the west, to the Alleghanies in the east; from the southern shore of lake Erie to the